(a) the target fixed for the conversion of dry latrines into water-seal units in 2009-10 under Integrated Low Cost Sanitation Programme; and

(b) the achievement and the present status of such conversion?

THE MINISTER OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION (KUMARI SELJA): (a) As per the revised guidelines of ILCS the target for conversion of dry latrines into twin pit pour latrines is by March 2010.

(b) Under the revised guidelines proposals received from the States of Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Bihar and Jammu & Kashmir were approved for conversion of 2,49,035 dry latrines in to twin pit pour flush latrines during the year 2008-09 and 2009-10 and funds were released. States of Assam and Nagaland have reported that they do not have dry latrines. As per the progress report received from the State of Bihar, 342 units are completed and 341 units are in progress and in the State of Uttar Pradesh 17583 units are completed and 12003 units are in progress.

Urban poverty in India

1579. DR. (SHRIMATI) NAJMA A. HEPTULLA: Will the Minister of HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that urban poverty in India remains high, at over 25 percent with over 80 million poor people living in the cities and towns of India;

(b) whether Government is also aware that Urban poverty poses the problems of housing and shelter, water, sanitation, health, education, social security and livelihoods along with special needs of vulnerable groups like women, children and aged people;

(c) if so, what efforts have been made by Government during the last three years; and

(d) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION (KUMARI SELJA): (a) Planning Commission releases estimates of urban poor from time to time based on the national sample survey conducted by the National Sample Survey Orgnaisation (NSSO). As per the latest such estimates of NSSO (61st Round) for the year 2004-05, based on the Uniform Recall Period (URP) method, the estimated number of urban poor is 80.8 million which is 25.7%, of the urban population.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) The Government has revamped the scheme of Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY), with effect from 1st April 2009. The objective of the scheme of SJSRY is to provide

gainful employment to the urban unemployed and under employed poor, through encouraging the setting up of self employment ventures and also through providing wage employment by utilizing their labour for construction of socially and economically useful public assets. The revised SJSRY has following five major components:-

(i) Urban Self Employment Programme (USEP)-Targeting individual urban poor for setting up of micro-enterprises.

(ii) Urban Women Self-help Programme (UWSP)-Targeting urban poor women self-help groups for setting up of group-enterprises and providing them assistance through a revolving fund for thrift & credit activities.

(iii) Skill Training for Employment Promotion amongst Urban Poor (STEP-UP)-Targeting urban poor for imparting quality training so as to enhance their employability for self-employment or better salaried employment.

(iv) Urban Wage Employment Programme (UWEP) -Assisting urban poor by utilizing their labour for construction of socially and economically useful public assets, in towns having population less than 5 lakhs as per 1991 census.

(v) Urban Community Development Network (UCDN)-Assisting the urban poor in organizing themselves in self- managed community structures so as to gain collective strength to address the issues of poverty facing them and participate in the effective implementation of urban poverty alleviation programmes.

Further, Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM) is being implemented with effect from 3rd December 2005, with the basic objective to strive for holistic slum development with a healthy and enabling urban environment by providing houses and basic infrastructure facilities to the slum dwellers of the identified urban areas. Additional Central Assistance is provided to States/UTs for taking up housing and infrastructural facilities for the urban poor in 65 select cities under the Sub-Mission on Basic Services to the Urban Poor (BSUP). For other cities/towns, the Integrated Housing and Slum Development Programme (IHSDP) has been introduced. Objectives of the Mission are provision of Basic Services to Urban Poor including security of tenure at affordable prices, improved housing, water supply, sanitation, education, health and social security.

Slow progress under BSUP and IHSD

1580. SHRI SHYAMAL CHAKRABORTY:
SHRI MOINUL HASSAN:

Will the Minister of HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state that in view of the slow progress under Basic Services to the Urban Poor (BSUP) and Integrated Housing and Slum Development (IHSD) Project, what steps have been taken to achieve the targets in time?